

Big Steel Profits Bared; New Bill Cuts Deeply

Reveals Full Profits.

On the subject of the production and costs of steel rails, the Commissioner of the State Department has issued a report which reveals the full profits of the industry. The report shows that the average cost of a ton of steel rails is \$18.50, with a profit of \$2.50. This is based on the cost of the raw material, the cost of the fuel, the cost of the labor, and the cost of the overhead expenses. The report also shows that the average price of a ton of steel rails is \$21.00, which gives a profit of \$2.50.

In the text, the principal principles and form of presentation for other products are the same as for rails. The relation of these integration profits to entire integration is not clearly shown. The report also shows that the average price of a ton of steel rails is \$21.00, which gives a profit of \$2.50. This is based on the cost of the raw material, the cost of the fuel, the cost of the labor, and the cost of the overhead expenses.

Small Concerns Pay Heavily.

Making a comparison of the "book costs" and the profits of large and small companies, the commissioner continues: "A very significant fact is the difference between the costs of large companies, which are well informed, and small companies, which are not. A good example here is Bessemer billets. In this product intermediate profits are also accumulated through the cost of coke, pig iron, etc. For the group of large companies the book cost of a ton of Bessemer billets is \$19.50, for small companies \$22.50. The difference was \$3.00. But now, taking out transfer profits, the cost for large companies was \$17.50 and for the small companies \$20.50, a difference of \$3.00 between the two. The large and small companies represented here included the Steel Corporation, the Republic, Lackawanna and Jones & Laughlin steel companies."

Conclusions arrived at by the Commissioner are that under the present conditions the profits of the steel industry are unusually high. The report also shows that the average price of a ton of steel rails is \$21.00, which gives a profit of \$2.50. This is based on the cost of the raw material, the cost of the fuel, the cost of the labor, and the cost of the overhead expenses.

The report is based upon an investigation of two-thirds of the country's production of iron and steel from 1902 to 1908, inclusive. Limited data for 1909, to 1910, Mr. Smith adds, "makes it clear that these five years figure substantially represent present conditions also."

FIGHTS TO KEEP COST FIGURES FROM RECORDS

HERALD BUREAU,
No. 1,902 H STREET, N. W.,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Monday.

"It is most vital that the committee get this information and, come what will, we will know it. There is power enough in this government to find it out."

This is an announcement made by A. O. Stanley, chairman of the special steel investigating committee of the House, to-day to James A. Farrell, president of the United States Steel Corporation, who had been subpoenaed for the committee's hearing.

Mr. Stanley said that the committee was examining the company and all of its subsidiaries, cost sheets and various other documents of importance in an examination of the steel industry of the country.

During the course of his examination by the committee Mr. Farrell said it would be grossly unfair for the committee to place on its records the cost of production of the Steel Corporation. While Herbert Knox Smith, Commissioner of Corporations, had a right to the public until to-day at the order of the President, Mr. Farrell's objection was to the reproduction of the actual cost sheets and books of the corporation on the Stanley Committee's records.

It was finally agreed between the committee, Mr. Farrell and the Steel Corporation attorneys that the committee should examine the books on the understanding that no step toward making this information public would be taken except upon authority of the full committee as the result of its deliberations.

Mr. Farrell asserted that the "Gary dinners" at which steel manufacturers assembled to discuss the trade had no influence in making or maintaining prices, although he thought they had induced in maintaining the stability of the market.

"I do not believe," he said, "that the prices of any two steel manufacturers in the United States to-day are alike."

"Why has Judge Gary said that the day of competition has passed?" asked Representative Beall.

"I think he referred to destructive competition," said Mr. Farrell. "As a matter of fact, steel prices to-day are very low. There is no doubt that reports of some corporations soon to be made will show that they are not getting the cost of manufacture out of present prices."

"I believe that there should be publicity of corporations, that this should show profits and losses and general conduct of business," said Mr. Farrell. "I think that there should be a supervising board, but believe that it would be impracticable, almost impossible, for a governmental board to fix prices, even to fix minimum prices. To determine the cost of articles manufactured in the steel business alone would require a corps of hundreds of experts."

"I would have a supervisory board which would have authority to investigate all corporations for the purpose of preventing unusually high rates but also unusually low rates which would result in reduced wages and employment of plants."

Mr. Farrell said he did not believe that the Sherman law should be repealed, but that it should be clarified so that business men would know exactly what to do under it.

Steel Profits Bared in Federal Report

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"Will you ask the President to let me produce those papers?" asked Mr. Hamilton, chairman of the committee.

"I will speak to the President about it," replied Mr. Knox.

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Mr. Underwood admits that the bill, if it becomes a law, will increase the importations of foreign steel to the extent of approximately \$20,000,000 a year, and there will be an annual falling off in revenue to the government from these products of more than \$80,000,000 from the year 1911 and of about \$4,000,000 from the year 1912.

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CALLS MR. KNOX TO EXPLAIN OUTLAYS HARBOR EXPANSION

House Committees Make Vain Effort
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Mr. Underwood admits that the bill, if it becomes a law, will increase the importations of foreign steel to the extent of approximately \$20,000,000 a year, and there will be an annual falling off in revenue to the government from these products of more than \$80,000,000 from the year 1911 and of about \$4,000,000 from the year 1912.

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